Lao Nyo language

Lao Nyo or **Nyo** (autonym: *laːw+ŋɔː?1*) is a <u>Southwestern Tai</u> <u>language</u> spoken mostly in <u>Banteay Meanchey Province</u>, Cambodia, as well as in <u>Aranyaprathet District</u>, <u>Sa Kaew Province</u>, Thailand. There are between 10,000 and 15,000 speakers of Lao Nyo in Cambodia. [2] Lao Nyo is classified as a dialect of <u>Lao</u> rather than <u>Nyo</u> (Nyaw), based on linguistic data from Aun Loung Svay Chas village in Cambodia. [1]

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Lao Nyo		
Native to	Cambodia, Thailand	
Native speakers	15,000 (2014) ^[1]	
Language	Kra–Dai	
family	■ Tai	
	Southwestern (Thai)	
	Lao–Phutai	
	Lao Nyo	
Language codes		
ISO 639-3	None (mis)	
Glottolog	None	

Name

The name *Nyo* likely came about as an exonym that was later adopted as an endonym; the Lao Nyo did not actually originate from the ethnic $\underline{\text{Nyo}}$ of $\underline{\text{Isan}}$ and Laos. [1] This exonym may have been used due to the Lao Nyo's geographical origins or their language.

Classification

Nyo is a Southwestern Tai language spoken in <u>Tha Uthen District</u>, <u>Nakhon Phanom Province</u> and <u>Kantharawichai District</u>, <u>Maha Sarakham Province</u> of Thailand, as well as <u>Khamkeut District</u>, <u>Bolikhamxay Province</u> of Laos. However, Trongdee (2014) shows that Lao Nyo of Banteay Meanchey is not Nyo or Yo, although some Lao Nyo tones are more similar to Nyo tones than to Lao tones.

Locations

The following Lao Nyo villages have been documented in Cambodia. [1]

- Ou Chrov District, Banteay Meanchey Province
 - Koub Thom
 - Dong Aranh
 - Aunloung Svay Chas
 - Aun Loung
 - Svay Thwey
 - Kou Touch

- Koub Cherng
- Koub Thboung
- Khai Dorn
- Sery Pheap
- Srei Sophone District, Banteay Meanchey Province
 - Phnum Bak village, Tuek Thla commune
 - Ambel village, Ou Ambel commune
- Bor Vil District, Battambang Province (5 villages)
 - Makreu
 - Salor Klaen
 - Phum Leau
 - Prey Kapos
 - Phum Koub

In <u>Sa Kaew Province</u>, Thailand, the Lao Nyo are found in the following subdistricts (*tambon*) of Aranyaprathet District. [1]

- Klong Nam Sai (คลองน้ำใส)
- Mueang Phai (เมืองไผ่)
- Phan Suek (ผ่านศึก)
- Tha Kham (ท่าข้าม)
- Aranyaprathet (อรัญประเทศ)

Notes

- 1. Thananan (2014).
- 2. Thananan (2014), p. 76.

References

■ Thananan, Trongdee (2014). "The Lao-speaking Nyo in Banteay Meanchey Province of Cambodia" (http://www.manusya.journals.chula.ac.th/files/essay/Thananon%2069-85.pdf) (PDF). Research Findings in Southeast Asian Linguistics, a Festschrift in Honor of Professor Pranee Kullavanijaya. Manusya. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Press (Special Issue 20). Retrieved 18 February 2016.

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